

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 30 as follows:

For example, such smartcard subsystems typically do not include API (Application Program Interface) functions for different browser types, including the most popular browser types. Consequently, it is difficult for a browser to invoke the smartcard subsystem to sign data. Moreover, in many e-commerce contexts, it may be desirable for practical purposes to have the merchant's Web server control the dialogue with the customer's browser and determine the appropriate point in the dialogue when data needs to be signed. The lack of appropriate API functions in existing smartcard subsystems makes it difficult for a merchant's Web application to invoke such smartcard subsystems to generate a digital signature.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 28 as follows:

As further shown in FIG. 2, subscribing customer 106 is preferably provided with a Web browser 224 adapted to transmit requests for Web pages and other Web content via the Internet, and to receive responses to those requests. ~~Issuing participant 102~~ subscribing customer 106 is further preferably provided with a smartcard subsystem 226 for signing transaction data. Smartcard subsystem 226 preferably includes a smartcard, a card reader, and any necessary software for executing digital signatures. An exemplary set of requirements for a smartcard and associated subsystem components is described in provisional application serial No. 60/224,994, filed August 14, 2000, entitled Signing Interface Requirements, Smart Card Compliance Requirements, Warranty Service Functional Requirements, and Additional Disclosure and U.S. application serial No. [[]] 09/928,999 filed August 14, 2001, entitled System and Method for Secure Smartcard Issuance, which are hereby incorporated by reference. Smartcard subsystem 226 may also be referred to as a smartcard "black box" because, in accordance with the present invention, seller 108 may invoke smartcard subsystem 226 without knowing any details of the subsystem's design or operation. In a preferred embodiment, the components that make up smartcard subsystem 226 are provided to buyer 106 by its issuing participant 102.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 22 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment, the above-described signing interface may be integrated with other components to facilitate access by customers 106, 108 to system services provided by participants 102, 104. These services may include, for example, a warranty service such as that described in U.S. provisional application serial No. 60/224,994, filed August 14, 2000, entitled Signing Interface Requirements, Smart Card Compliance Requirements, Warranty Service Functional Requirements, and Additional Disclosure and U.S. application serial No. [[____]] 10/038,711 filed ~~August 14, 2001~~ January 4, 2002, entitled System and Method for Providing Warranties in Electronic Commerce, which are hereby incorporated by reference. A preferred embodiment, for using the above-described signing interface to obtain a warranty for a subscribing customer's digital signature is now described in connection with FIG. 6.